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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The editor is not responsible for opinions expressed in this department. All communications must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer to ensure publication.

A GOOD TEXT BOOK ON MENTAL DISEASES

Dear Editor: I have had occasion recently to critically examine no less than five texts on mental nursing designed primarily for use in nurses' training schools. All these I found highly undesirable from several points of view—with one exception. This exception was a new book by Harriet Bailey, R.N., entitled "Nursing Mental Diseases." This text seemed to me to be so very useful on the whole that I promptly availed myself of the opportunity to force its attention upon the readers of this Journal.

This excellent little nursing text comes from the pen of one possessing a rich experience in the nursing of mental patients. Written by a nurse, primarily for nurses, it is only natural to expect it to be replete with practical nursing procedures for meeting situations which have as their cause some mental peculiarity or disorder. In this respect it fulfills all expectations and one marvels, as does the chronicler after a close reading of it, that so many practical details could be treated as adequately as they have been in this book of less than two hundred pages. The subject matter and treatment of it in this text commend it not only to those specializing in the nursing of overt mental disturbances, but also to all nurses who would strive to understand better and manage more effectively the worried, nervous, excitable, mischievous, and generally irascible patient.

Perhaps I had best state that I have no connection whatever with the publishers or the author of this text and the praises of this book are prompted by the nature of the book itself rather than any obligations to any one who might profit by the sale of the book.

University of Iowa

DONALD A. LAIRD.

EXPERIENCES AMONG THE NAVAJO INDIANS

Dear Editor: The days at our mission are busy and interesting, one never knows what the next call will be. A mother whose son had died of influenza at our hospital came to us again for help. Upon reaching the camp, which was a ride of fifteen miles, I found the sick daughter in a hogan with two medicine men and a number of anxious friends. I fully realized it would be with difficulty that our treatments would be permitted. The medicine men were going to have a Sing. Fortunately, at this camp there was a splendid interpreter whom I instructed to proceed with our medication as soon as possible, as the patient showed marked symptoms of a double pneumonia. With difficulty (owing to the influence of the medicine man) the Indian girl administered medicines that the sick woman asked for, saying she had great relief. The patient and mother were anxious for me to nurse her, but one medicine man would not give up his Sings and so, to save a life, we worked together. At my next visit I was free to proceed with proper care, as the medicine man was away. In the evening he returned, saying he was going to remain with her all night. The interpreter told me they were going to have a sweat bath early in the morning. I remained all night with the Indian interpreter, to be awakened by weird incantations filling the morning air, and to find the hogan well guarded to prevent my seeing in. As the patient was struggling and moaning a great deal, I pulled back the curtain and found the medicine man had a large feather down her throat to induce